

Cambridgeport, May 13, 1842.

Dear George:

89 You need no assurance from me, that I deeply sympathize with you and Catharine, in the recent bereavement which you have both sustained. The beautiful child upon which your affections were so strongly placed, and which was so full of promise, has been suddenly taken from you, as the flower perishes when plucked from the stem that gave it nourishment. It lies not, however, in the bosom of the earth, but has been transplanted to a heavenly soil, and to a brighter clime. No strange thing has happened unto you; and yet it is an event which greatly tries the soul, and calls for the exercise of faith and resignation in an extraordinary degree. I have no reason to doubt that you have gone through this trial in an exemplary manner, and that in the will of God, your son is swallowed up.

Having had our share of sickness, under our own roof, we know how to feel for you, in having had a similar experience in your own family. While we mingle our sympathies in view of the loss of your babe, we are proportionately glad to hear that the other children are convalescent. May this letter find your entire household in the perfect enjoyment of health.

As Sarah and Helen have written to you and Catharine, I take it for granted that they have stated all the particulars in regard to Anne's illness, and shall not add anything on this point. Cambridgeport is evidently a place which does not agree with her health, and therefore she will do wisely to spend the summer either at Providence or Northampton.

You will see, by the Liberator of to-day, that I did not go to New-York, and the reasons why I remained at home. I regretted to be absent from the meeting on account of the stormy aspect of things, created by the diabolism of the New-York daily press; but, in consequence of the peculiar position in which I stood to the Executive Committee, by their unfortunate disclaimer, I deemed it very important that the action of the American Society, at its present anniversary, should be entirely unbiassed by any thing that I might say or do; so that it might appear, beyond all cavil, that the Society marked out its own course, and came to its ^{own} conclusions, without any aid from me. I hear that the meetings are proceeding in a very quiet ^{manner,} and that none of the sons of Belial have rallied either to molest or make afraid. The great question of a repeal of the Union has been boldly and earnestly discussed; but I do not know how the debate terminated. To-morrow morning, all our Eastern delegates will return — about 250 of whom went on in the Mohegan, via Stonington — and then all the particulars will be made known. I have not at any time supposed that a majority even of old organizationists are prepared openly to go for repeal; for the question is one of recent agitation, and should be carefully examined before a verdict is made up, either pro or con. Yet I have no doubt whatever, that, in the progress of the discussion, all who mean to be consistent, uncompromising abolitionists will ever long be found on the side of repeal.

As for the disclaimer of our New-York friends, I am sorry it was made; not only as it took a false position, but as it was extorted under circumstances that seemed to in-

dicate a lack of self-possession, and an improper dread of mobocratic violence. It was certainly an error of judgment; but how different is this from a dereliction of principle! It need not, and will not, I trust, create any breach of friendship, or lead to personal alienation, in any quarter.

Dr. Wesselhoeft fully intended to go to Northampton, in the morning, with Mr. Mack; but the illness of the girl who lives in his family has interposed to baffle his intention. He still hopes to visit you in the course of a fortnight. He will cease to be our neighbor after the next week.

Mr. Mack was enabled to sell only a small portion of his furniture. The company at the auction was very small, and few seem disposed to buy on any terms.

As you were prevented from going to New-York, I shall cherish the hope of seeing you in Boston at the New-England Convention. By your regard for the cause, you must make an effort to give your attendance on that occasion. Bring with you, if practicable, our able, enlightened and beloved friends D. L. Child, Wm. Adam, and Dr. H. C. H. — and as many more as you can muster.

It is my intention, should nothing occur to prevent, to visit Northampton toward the last of June, with Helen, and one or two of the children. I wish to be with you when Nature is in her best attire, and exhibits her brightest charms. We will endeavor not to inconvenience you.

The times are portentous, and what lies before us, who can tell? In storm or sunshine, I remain,

Yours, in brotherly ties,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

I got up at early dawn this (Saturday) morning, and walked in to Boston to the depot, expecting to find Mr. Black as Dr. W. said he was in the city; but he did not go from the depot, though he may have taken the cars at Brighton. I had letters to send by him from Sarah, Anne, Helen, and Eliza; but must wait for another opportunity. The throat distemper with which Anne has been attacked, has been very painful and protracted. After a fortnight's dosing, in vain, we called in Dr. Wright, and he very soon administered relief.

Single.
Mr.
George W. Benson,
Northampton,
Mass.

James continues in a feeble state. The pestilous abscess near his lungs will, in all probability, terminate his existence; though he may yet linger for months. How much more cheerfully could I regard his exit from this evil world, if I could see in him a spirit reconciled to God!

I do not see any prospect of our raising money enough to defray bro. Wright's expenses that must necessarily be incurred by a mission to England. Perhaps it is all for the best; but I relinquish the hope of his going with great reluctance.